MABRAY JOYCE A 05/07/82 160032 PRINTER: LI
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ACTION NEA-11
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-15 CIAE-00 EB-08
DODE-00 H-01 IO-15 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 SY-05
L-03 CSCE-04 DOE-10 TRSE-00 PM-09 PA-01 DCT-02
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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2332
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO RIYADH
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, IS, IZ, LE
SUBJECT: LEBANON PRESS REACTION TO ISRAELI RAID IN IRAQ

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J.L. DATE 9/30/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☒
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

1. COVERAGE OF THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON IRAQ'S NUCLEAR REACTOR HAS BEEN RELATIVELY STRAIGHTFORWARD IN MOST RIGHTIST AND INDEPENDENT PAPERS. STATEMENTS BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HAVE BEEN WIDELY QUOTED, AND A NUMBER OF JUNE 10 HEADLINES ARE FOCUSED ON REACTIONS IN THE U.S.: "WASHINGTON WILL NOT MODIFY ITS COMMITMENTS TO ISRAEL" (INDEPENDENT L'ORIENT-LE JOUR) AND "WASHINGTON RECOGNIZES THAT THE ISRAELI ATTACK WILL AFFECT ITS

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POSTIION IN THE MIDDLE EAST (INDEPENDENT AN-NAHAR).
2. AS EXPECTED, THE LEFTIST PRESS HAS BEEN HARSHER. IN ITS JUNE 10 HEADLINE, AS-SAFIR CHARGES THAT THE U.S. KNOW ABOUT PLANS FOR THE RAID, ALTHOUGH IT WAS SURPRISED BY THE TIMING. THE PAPER CLAIMS THAT THE USE OF AMERICAN AIRCRAFT IS A FURTHER INDICATOR OF U.S. COMPLICITY.
3. PALESTINIAN REACTION IS ALSO PREDICATBLY HOSTILE. THE PLO'S DAILY PALESTINE AL-THAWRA QUOTES AN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL STATEMENT THAT THE RAID "TOOK PLACE WITH AMERICAN ARMS AND APPROVAL," AND TREATS WITH ELABORATE SARCASM THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S REMARKS ON THE SOVIET THREAT TO THE MIDDLE EAST. IN ITS COMMENTARY ON THE RAID, THE PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY (WAFA) CONCLUDED WITH THE FOLLOWING: "ISRAEL IS A...PUPPET-STATE. THE STRINGS ARE OFTEN PULLED

FROM BELOW BY THE BEGINS AND THE EYTANS, BECAUSE THE HAND OF THE AMERICAN PUPPETEER IS SLACK. BUT FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTERS TO LOOK AT THE LITTLE PUPPET AND TO IGNORE THE STRINGS AND THE HADNS WHICH HOLD THEM WILL BE FOLLY OF THE KIND WHICH HAS ALLOWED ISRAEL TO GET AWAY WITH WHAT IT HAS BEEN DOING FOR THE PAST 33 YEARS."

4. COMMENT: THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF LEBANESE MEDIA ATTENTION IS STILL ON THE RESULTS OF THE JUNE 7-8 ARAB FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE MEETING IN BAYT AD-DIN, AFFECTING BOTH THE EXTENT AND PERSPECTIVE OF COVERAGE GIVEN TO THE ISRAELI STRIKE. THERE HAS BEEN WIDESPREAD CONCER, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, OVER THE POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACT OF THE ATTACK ON THE ATTEMPTS OF THE BAYT AD-DIN CONFEREES TO DEFUSE THE LEBANESE CRISIS (AS WELL AS SPECULATION THAT THE RAID WAS INTENDED EXPRESSLY FOR THAT PURPOSE).

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IN THE SAME VEIN, SOME PRESS REPORTS HAVE MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF DAMAGE TO THE HABIB MISSION'S EFFORTS.
END COMMENT.
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